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45% Destruction Milestone Podcast Script 21 June 2007

I. Introduction (Narrator)

In a time when terms like weapons of mass destruction and chemical weapons dominate world news, an important movement is taking place to reduce the threat of chemical weapons to the citizens of this country and nations around the world.

As the only international disarmament treaty to provide specific destruction milestones, the Chemical Weapons Convention aims at reducing the threat to mankind of chemical weapons and chemical agent by mandating worldwide destruction and covers 98 percent of the world's population of chemical weapons. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons or OPCW, based at The Hague in the Netherlands, oversees the treaty and ensures signatory countries meet the declared milestones.

This month, the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency reached a significant milestone as mandated by the Chemical Weapons Convention. The United States has destroyed 45 percent of its stockpile of chemical weapons. Along with the 45 percent destruction milestone, a significant amount of risk has been eliminated.

II. Importance of chemical weapons disposal (Narrator)

During World War I the United States developed a chemical weapons program. Jeff Smart, command historian of the U.S. Army Research Development and Engineering Command based at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, provides insight into the development of the program and the resulting stockpiles at 8 locations across the United States.

- Jeff Smart, Command Historian, U.S. Army Research Development and Engineering - Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland
- “The United States has a chemical weapons program because during World War I in 1915 Germany initiated large-scale chemical weapon usage against the Allies. When we entered the war in 1917 we were unprepared for a chemical battlefield. Therefore, we had to establish a chemical weapons program here in the United States. We didn't get started until the spring 1918 and by November of 1918 the war was pretty much over, so most of the chemical weapons we prepared here at Edgewood did not make it to the Western Front.”
- “As World War II approached in Europe the United States realized that it could be another chemical warfare the United States began to prepare extensively in case chemical warfare did break out. However, since chemical warfare did not break out against the United States, all these chemical weapons were put into stockpiles at various locations around the country. When the war ended, these stockpiles remained in place. It should be noted that during the war our stockpile work helped convince both Germany and

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Japan not to initiate chemical warfare against us. So, therefore we basically continued the policy of having a chemical weapons stockpile as a deterrent against other countries that might initiate chemical warfare against us."

- "From the time period after the 1960s when we had these stockpiles, we did not use chemical weapons and starting in 1969 there was pretty much a ban on the further production of chemical weapons. So, therefore all these chemical weapons remained in the stockpile and that's why we have the current stockpile today".

III. Significance of the 45% milestone (Narrator)

By eliminating the stockpiles of chemical weapons, the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, also known as CMA, greatly reduces the risk associated with the aging chemical weapons. As CMA celebrates meeting the treaty's third milestone, they also celebrate a 90% reduction in risk to the world, country and communities by disposing of the chemical weapons.

Doug Hamrick, project general manager for Washington Group International in Umatilla, Oregon, understands the implication of this risk reduction.

- Doug Hamrick, Project General Manager, Washington Group International - Umatilla, Oregon.
- "There are not many jobs that every day improves the safety to the local community and reduces the risk, and this is one of those jobs."

Bob Flournoy, chairman of the Oregon Citizens' Advisory Commission

- Bob Flournoy, Chairman Oregon CAC
 - "As the inventory diminishes, community members become conscious of reducing risk."

Meeting the 45% destruction milestone is also of tremendous importance to the international community, country, U.S. Army and local communities as Dale Ormond, Acting Director of CMA explains.

- Dale Ormond, Acting Director, CMA
 - "The 45 percent destruction milestone is a significant component of the international Chemical Weapons Convention treaty. When the treaty was originally established, there were certain milestones set up to the treaty with times lines associated with it so the world could check and the evaluate the progress at each of the states that had chemical weapons were making progress and destroying those stockpiles."

IV. Safety (Narrator)

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A major part of the accomplishment of reaching the 45 percent chemical weapons destruction milestone includes a remarkable safety record and successfully protecting the workers, communities and environment. Safety remains a top priority. Workers follow strict safety standards and receive a high degree of training.

CMA possesses safety records more than 3 times better than the national average and this commitment to safety resulted in multiple commendations by the OSHA Voluntary Protection Program.

Doug Hamrick in Umatilla, Oregon, takes the safety of his workers and the environment seriously.

- Doug Hamrick, Project General Manager, Washington Group International - Umatilla, Oregon.
- “My mindset is if we can protect our workers and they can do this work safely, that insures the safety of the public and the community around us.”

In order to meet state, federal and international guidelines, CMA works closely with regulators and independent organizations to ensure safety procedures are followed and effective. The relationship with Dennis Downs, director of the Utah Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste, goes back to the planning stages for the facility at Deseret Chemical Depot.

- Dennis Downs, Director Utah Division of Solid & Hazardous Waste/Exec. Secretary Utah Solid & Hazardous Waste Control Board
- “Our division has played a role in number one permitting the initial construction and operation of the chemical demilitarization facilities at Deseret Chemical Depot. And since then we’ve had a role in modifications to those permits so that if changes needed to be made we were able to approve those. And then we have had a regulatory role where we’ve done inspections and enforcement activities out at the facilities having regular staff members out there on almost a daily basis.”

As commander of the Newport Chemical Depot in Indiana, Lieutenant Colonel Brian Lynch also takes pride in CMA’s safety commitment.

- LTC Brian Lynch, Commander, Newport Chemical Depot
 - “We’re proud of our part in the history books and are doubly proud of our safety record.”

To provide the best protection possible, CMA uses an extensive system of monitors at each site where agent is stored and where it is destroyed.

Tim Garrett Site Project Manager for the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

- Tim Garrett Site Project Manager - Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility

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- “To provide the best protection possible for the public and workforce, CMA uses an extensive system of monitors at each site where chemical agent is stored and where it is destroyed. The primary means of monitoring agent levels at the plants and storage magazines are the Automatic Continuous Air Monitoring systems or ACAMS and the Miniature Continuous Air Monitors or MINICAMS®, both of which are Near Real Time monitors. These instruments are calibrated to monitor at the required level to protect the workers and the public. For example, the ANCDF has 167 ACAMS to support operations. The sites also use Depot Area Air Monitoring System tube sampling for historical and confirmation monitoring in support of the ACAMS and MINICAMS®. With the use of the ACAMS, MINICAMS® and DAAMS, an extensive monitoring system is in place to ensure the safety of the workers, the surrounding community and the environment.”

V. Community outreach and public participation (Narrator)

Public participation remains the cornerstone of chemical disposal operations. By reaching out to the public and soliciting comments at each phase of disposal planning and operations, CMA educates the public on processes and receives valuable input from the communities in which they operate.

Lieutenant Colonel Casey Scott, commander of the Pine Bluff Chemical Activity in Arkansas highlights the importance of this process.

- LTC Casey Scott, Pine Bluff Chemical Activity, Commander
 - “The local community has been very supportive from the very inception of the program, from the groundbreaking ceremony that we had at the plant all the way up to this point. Everything we’ve done they’ve been very supportive. They understand we will not hide things from them. They understand we have a very transparent, open relationship with them and that we explain what we do, when we do it and then we report to then we report to the Citizen’s Advisory Commission on a monthly basis.”

Public participation was equally essential in Tooele, Utah, where CMA debuted the first full-scale chemical weapons disposal facility in the continental United States. CMA realized the importance of communicating the new technology to the community. Site project manager Ted Ryba witnessed the exchange as CMA answered community questions and concerns.

- Ted Ryba, TOCDF Site Project Manager
 - “I think that the community at large has been very supportive of our operations over time. The local citizens, the elected officials, Citizens Advisory Commission have all been supportive of what we’ve done, which isn’t to say that they’ve come along unquestioningly. As they’re required to do and as we appreciate their doing, they’ve looked at what we’ve done, they’ve looked at how we’ve done it, they’ve raised questions - often times the hard questions - which we’ve been accountable for and have had to answer. By that open interchange and by that conversation, it’s made our operations a lot better and a lot better appreciated by the community.

Tooele County Commissioner Bruce Clegg also interacted with the community.

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- Bruce Clegg, Tooele County Commissioner
 - “The people I talk to are not concerned. Of course it’s dangerous and you have to handle things correctly, but so far it’s been an overwhelmingly positive experience for Tooele County.”

As public information officer for Tooele County Emergency Management, Wade Mathews frequently interacts with the public about the chemical weapons disposal facility.

- Wade Mathews, Public Information Officer, Tooele County Emergency Management
 - “I have opportunities to go out and talk to the public through booths we set up at local shopping areas. I do a lot of presentations to the public on Emergency Preparedness. We talk a lot about our county’s readiness and the risks in the county and how the risk from the stockpile is being reduced - 99% gone here in Tooele County because of the weapons that have been destroyed. We talk about the benefits that we have because we’re part of the chemical stockpile emergency preparedness program and the readiness capabilities that we enjoy here in Tooele County because of participation.”
 - “The public has been interested in knowing they are safer with the chemical stockpile being eliminated and that the community is a safer place to live.”

Community members also give their input to members of their Citizens’ Advisory Commission. The Citizens’ Advisory Commission provides a vital public involvement link between the community, state agencies and the Army and consists of members appointed by the governor, such as Bob Flourney, chairman of the Oregon Citizens’ Advisory Commission.

- Bob Flourney, Chairman Oregon CAC
 - “The partnership between management and employees is outstanding... The communities have gained confidence in the Depot and contractors conduct of the incineration project safety procedures to the extent little concern now exists.”

Former Utah Citizens’ Advisory Commission member and former Tooele County Commissioner Gene White adds:

- Gene White, Former Tooele County Commissioner/Former CAC member
 - “The government and the Army had worked harder to make the people feel more safe and understanding and educated as to what happened and I think that educational process has paid off.”

VI. Expertise and Coordination (Narrator)

As a world leader in chemical demilitarization technology, the United States and the Army have a track record of effectively and efficiently destroying chemical warfare

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agent, and doing it safely. The program is benefited by a distinguished group of scientific and engineering experts in the contractor community who helped create the nation's intellectual capital in this area. That combined expertise and an aggressive lessons learned program led the way for our success in meeting the 45 percent chemical destruction milestone and will safely lead the United States to complete destruction of chemical weapons, as explained by CMA Acting Director Dale Ormond.

- Dale Ormond, Acting Director, CMA
- “This is not a U.S. Army achievement this is an achievement of the United States nation. This is a contribution made by our regulators, our local citizens, our citizen leaders, our friends and supporters on Capitol Hill, our contractors, out on the site our field offices and our Army Soldiers who are out supporting this mission everyday.”

Leading the way for safe disposal and an effective lessons learned program was the Army's first full-scale chemical weapons disposal facility, the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System. Commonly referred to as JACADS, it safely completed its mission in 2000 while protecting workers, the community and the remote island's delicate environment. JACADS served as a model of safe incineration operations, resulting in safety and process enhancements that are benefiting chemical weapons disposal efforts across the country and around the globe.

Gary McCloskey contributed to the JACADS legacy from construction through operations and witnessed the facility's successful closure.

- Gary McCloskey, General Manager, EG&G, Tooele
 - “We were really the first generation facility at Johnston Island and the first full scale integrated chemical weapons disposal facility.”
 - “Any new facility that you start regardless of technology, first generation facilities have their technical challenges. I had the great experience of working through those at JACADS and in the process destroying about 6.6% of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile.”

Following the start up success at JACADS, the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, also known as TOCDF, began destroying the chemical weapons stockpile located at the Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah, in August 1996. With the largest stockpile and largest disposal facility, TOCDF will destroy 44% of the total U.S. chemical weapons stockpile using information learned at JACADS while sharing important information and lessons learned with next generation facilities across the country. McCloskey now uses his expertise as general manager for systems contractor EG&G Defense Materials, Incorporated at TOCDF.

- Gary McCloskey, General Manager, EG&G, Tooele
 - “TOCDF for me has been an extension of the challenge at JACADS. We were able to import some of the approaches to environmental compliance and safety that I think have strengthened the operation here but it also gave us a chance to do significant operations with distilled mustard or bulk distilled mustard which we did not have the opportunity to do at Johnston Island so that's been a significant technical challenge.”

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- “It’s a unique situation for us because every 350 ton containers we do we eliminate about 1% of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile.”
- “We really have a tremendous lessons learned program right now. Every day our plant manager and plant manager from Newport and the 3 incineration sites have a phone conference and go through operational problems that are there. Many times the operational problems are not technology. They’re really approaches to people, approaches to operational discipline and they really are common to all the sites and all the technology involved.”

Many employees at chemical weapons disposal facilities across the country draw on experience from other sites, as explained by Newport, Indiana, site project manager Jeff Brubaker.

- Jeff Brubaker, Newport Site Project Manager
 - “Many employees have worked previously at other chemical weapons destruction sites and bring valuable experience and lessons learned.”

As the commander for Pine Bluff Chemical Activity in Arkansas, Lieutenant Colonel Casey Scott recognizes the role the lessons learned program has played in the success of the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility or PBCDF, which is a 3rd generation chemical agent disposal facility.

- LTC Casey Scott, Commander, Pine Bluff Chemical Activity (3rd generation facility; lessons learned)
- “Well the lessons learned have been very important for us. We are a third generation demilitarization facility and because of that there have been many things that have occurred at the other demilitarization facilities that we’ve been able to learn from.”

Colonel Fred Pellissier, commander of Deseret Chemical Depot in Utah knows the importance of the team approach.

- Col. Fred Pellissier, Deseret Chemical Depot
 - “We are currently using our mustard campaign and those lessons learned to transfer that knowledge up to Umatilla Chemical Depot who will be able to use those lessons in their mustard campaign. The most important thing about the whole mustard campaign and our contribution and our agency’s contribution to the 45% treaty milestone is that we gained and maintained the public trust not only in our local communities but throughout our nation.”

VII. The Future of Chemical Weapons (Narrator)

The Army will continue to diligently work to destroy its remaining chemical weapons materiel, always placing the safety of workers, communities, and the environment first. The Army’s chemical disposal operating facilities will continue to share their lessons learned and enhance their efficiency as they aggressively pursue the 100 percent destruction milestone.

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Acting CMA Director Dale Ormond, Acting Director, CMA

- “For CMA our future is to continue to execute our mission safely, comply with all environmental laws and regulations and to get this done as quickly as we can within our standards of safety and environmental compliance. We expect to complete the destruction of the CMA stockpiles within the next 4-5 years and we’re making good progress down that path right now and hopefully we will be successful in doing that”

On the international front, the United States will continue to assist other nations with their chemical demilitarization programs, even after reaching our 100 percent milestone. We all look forward to the day when chemical weapons exist only in the history books.

VIII. Staying Informed (Narrator)

CMA remains committed to providing updated information regarding the status of its chemical weapons disposal program. For more information, contact public affairs headquarters at 1-800-488-0648 or visit the Web site at www.cma.army.mil.